UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1993/L.2
8 February 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-seventh session
22 February-3 March 1993
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft organization of work for the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session, annexed to the present note, has been prepared pursuant to relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in order to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time and services allocated to the Commission.

2. The first meeting of the Commission will be convened on Monday, 22 February 1993, at 11 a.m. Facilities will be available for two formal meetings each day. The meeting hours (Monday to Friday, inclusive) will normally be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

3. There are some differences in the detail of documentation shown in the present draft organization of work, compared to the detail in the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/1993/1). The provisional agenda was prepared in April 1992, prior to the preparation of substantive documents. The documentation in the present draft organization of work reflects the actual documentation, which has been brought into accord with the decisions of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and also reflects evolving developments. In particular:

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* E/CN.3/1993/1.

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(a) The planned document "Proposed revisions to the statistics programme of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997" (E/CN.3/1993/CRP.2) was not produced; the mandated cycle of revisions for the medium-term plan was followed, which resulted in revisions being approved by the General Assembly during its forty-seventh session; the "Medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: Programme 24. Statistics" (A/45/6/Rev.1 (Prog.24)) and the revisions to it (A/47/6 (Prog.24)) are therefore included in place of document E/CN.3/1993/CRP.2;

(b) The section headings of the report of the Secretary-General on demographic and social statistics, including statistics on the advancement of women (E/CN.3/1993/12) are different from those listed in the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/1993/1) for the documentation under agenda items 9 (c), "Statistics on special population groups", and 9 (d), "Statistics on the advancement of women";

(c) Documents E/CN.3/1993/4 and E/CN.3/1993/6, listed in the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/1993/1) as reports of the Secretary-General, were each issued as a report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts;

(d) Documents E/CN.3/1993/18 and E/CN.3/1993/19, listed in the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/1993/1) as reports of the Secretary-General, were each issued as a joint report of the Secretary-General and the World Bank;

(e) A note by the Secretariat on the status of preparation of the documentation (E/CN.3/1993/L.1), which was not included in the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/1993/1), was produced;

(f) A report of the Secretary-General containing comments on the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its fifteenth session, work done and additional action required for implementation (E/CN.3/1993/3/Add.1), which was not included in the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/1993/1), was produced;

(g) A note by the Secretariat on the fundamental principles of official statistics (E/CN.3/1993/26), which was not included in the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/1993/1), was produced.

4. The following views of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination which relate to the organization of work, and some aspects of the organization of work, are brought to the attention of the Commission:

(a) At its fourteenth session, the Working Group "noted that several proposals for a fundamental restructuring of the agenda for the Commission at its twenty-seventh session had been made by individual participants at the twenty-sixth session ... The Working Group felt that, although a fundamental restructuring of the agenda was not necessary, a number of changes could usefully be introduced. In particular there was agreement that a new effort

should be made to identify items or sub-items that were expected to be either for discussion or for information" (see E/CN.3/1993/2, paras. 37 and 38). The Working Group considered each agenda item and its documentation and classified them as "for discussion" or "for information". Documents and parts of documents are indicated as being for discussion or information in the draft organization of work (see annex) in accordance with the Working Group's decisions. The Working Group "recognized that when participants wished to discuss an item, they could not be prevented from doing so" (see E/CN.3/1993/2, para. 39);

(b) The proposed work programme of the Statistical Division for 1994-1995 (E/CN.3/1993/CRP.1), and the "Medium-term plan for 1992-1997: Programme 24. Statistics" (A/45/6/Rev.1 (Prog.24)) and the revisions to it (A/47/6 (Prog.24)) have been included under agenda item 3, "Special topic: strengthening international statistical cooperation", as the Working Group expected them to be closely related to matters that were likely to be discussed under this item (see E/CN.3/1993/2, para. 40). Extended time has been provided for discussion and decisions on the work programme of the Statistical Division (E/CN.3/1993/CRP.1) under agenda item 15 (b), "Programme objectives and planning". Although the medium-term plan and the revisions to it have been adopted, the Commission, in reviewing them, may wish to give guidance for the next revision during the discussion under agenda item 15 (b). An opportunity for discussion of the medium-term plan and its revisions has also been provided at an earlier stage of the session than in the past (under agenda item 3), as the Working Group expected that this would provide more time for their consideration by the maximum number of participants (see E/CN.3/1993/2, para. 40);

(c) The Working Group also "stressed that the structure of the agenda and the availability of documentation needed to be combined with more focused, issue-oriented and succinct interventions by those participating in the discussions. It emphasized that detailed expositions of methodology or the reporting of routine activities should be avoided. The Working Group requested the Chairman of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session to bring those matters to the attention of the participants" (see E/CN.3/1993/2, para. 41). In addition, the Working Group, at its fifteenth session, made a number of recommendations to the Statistical Commission, including the recommendation that participants should present their reports to the Commission as documents or background papers and not through lengthy oral statements (see E/CN.3/1993/21, para. 22).

Annex

DRAFT ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Monday, 22 February

Morning — Opening of the session.

Item 1. Election of officers.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/1 and E/CN.3/1993/L.2

For information: E/CN.3/1993/L.1

Item 5. International economic classifications:

Item 5 (a). Implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3, and the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC).

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/7

Item 5 (b). International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE).

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/8

Afternoon

Item 3. Special topic: strengthening international statistical cooperation.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/2, E/CN.3/1993/21, E/CN.3/1993/3, E/CN.3/1993/3/Add.1, E/CN.3/1993/25, E/CN.3/1993/CRP.1, A/45/6/Rev.1 (Prog.24) and A/47/6 (Prog.24)

Tuesday, 23 February

Morning

Item 4. National accounts and balances:

Item 4 (a). System of National Accounts (SNA).

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/4, PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/2/Rev.4 and E/CN.3/1993/5)

Item 4 (b). Implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA).

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/6

Afternoon

Item 4. (continued)

Wednesday, 24 February

Morning

Item 3. (continued)

Afternoon

Item 12. General development and integration of methodological work, including development indicators:

Item 12 (a). General development and integration of methodological work.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/15, section II.B and E/CN.3/1993/15/Add.1

For information: E/CN.3/1993/15, sections I and II.A

Item 8. Price statistics.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/11

Thursday, 25 February

Morning

Item 6. Industrial statistics.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/9, sections II, III and IV

For information: E/CN.3/1993/9, section I

Item 7. Service statistics.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/10

Item 9. Demographic and social statistics:

Item 9 (a). Population and housing censuses.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/12, section I.B

For information: E/CN.3/1993/12, sections I.A and III

Item 9 (b). Civil registration and vital statistics.

For information: E/CN.3/1993/12, section II

Item 9 (c). Statistics on special population groups.

For information: E/CN.3/1993/12, section III

Item 9 (d). Statistics on the advancement of women.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/12, section IV

Afternoon

Item 10. Environment statistics.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/13, sections I.B, I.C, II, IV, V and VI

For information: E/CN.3/1993/13, sections I.A and III

Item 11. Tourism statistics.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/14 and PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/83

Item 12. (continued)

Item 12 (b). Development indicators.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/16, sections II and III

For information: E/CN.3/1993/16, section I, and E/CN.3/1993/20

Friday, 26 February

Morning

Item 13. Technical cooperation:

Item 13 (a). Technical cooperation in statistics.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/17

Item 13 (b). National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP).

Item 13 (c). Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS).

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/19

For information: E/CN.3/1993/18

Afternoon

Item 13 (d). Monitoring the achievement of social goals in the 1990s.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/20

For information: E/CN.3/1993/16

Proposed item. Fundamental principles of official statistics.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/26

Monday, 1 March

Morning

Item 14. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/2, E/CN.3/1993/21, E/CN.3/1993/22 and E/CN.3/1993/23

Item 15. Programme questions:

Item 15 (a). Programme performance and implementation.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/22

For information: E/CN.3/1993/24

Afternoon

Item 15 (b). Programme objectives and planning.

For discussion: E/CN.3/1993/25, E/CN.3/1993/CRP.1, E/CN.3/1993/23, A/45/6/Rev.1 (Prog.24) and A/47/6 (Prog.24)

Tuesday, 2 March

Morning

Item 15 (b). (continued)

Item 16. Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/1993/L.3)

Afternoon

Free

Wednesday, 3 March

Morning

Item 17. Report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.3/1993/L.4 and addenda)

Afternoon

Item 17. (continued)

Adoption of the report.

Closure of the session.